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APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-921
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***Operations and Services
Hydrologic Services Program, NWSPD 10-9
Weather Forecast Office Hydrologic Operations, NWSI 10-921
ALASKA WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE HYDROLOGIC OPERATIONS***

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: None. This is a new directive. No Regional Operations Manual Letters are being superseded.

Section numbers in this supplement correspond to the section numbers in NWS Instruction 10-921.

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| <u>Signed</u> | <u>10/1/03</u> |
| Richard C. Przywarty | Date |
| Regional Director | |

Alaska Weather Forecast Office Hydrologic Operations

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1. Introduction. This supplement addresses the national instructions for hydrologic operations at Alaska Region weather forecast offices (WFO) and weather service offices (WSO). This supplement identifies unique customer/partner requirements within hydrologic service areas (HSA) in the Region.

3. WFO Hydrologic Functions.

3.1 Hydrologic Forecast and Warning Operations. NWS Instruction (NWSI) 10-921 states that operational responsibility for the hydrologic products identified in NWSI 10-922 resides with the WFO. WFOs are responsible for the quality of their hydrologic products and services, and customer outreach. In Alaska, the WFO may delegate authority to generate some of these hydrologic products to the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center (APRFC). This delegation may be a blanket delegation, as is given to the APRFC to issue flood and flash flood products associated with river ice breakup in the spring, or it may be given for a particular event by the lead forecaster in consultation with the staff of the APRFC. WFOs, APRFC, or WSOs may suggest hydrologic product and service changes to the Regional Hydrologist, but they will not make those changes until the recommendation has been coordinated and approved and customers have been notified. The table below lists the responsible issuing office (R) and offices that may be authorized (A) to generate hydrologic products issued in Alaska Region and described in NWSI 10-922 and Alaska Region Supplement 08-2003 to NWSI 10-922.

| Product | WFO | APRFC | WSOs |
|---|------------|--------------|-------------|
| <u>Hydrologic Warning and Forecast Products</u> | | | |
| Hydrologic Outlook (ESF) for HSA | R | A | |
| ESF for multiple HSAs | | | R |
| Flood Watch (FFA)* | R | A | |
| Flash Flood Warning (FFW)* | R | A | |
| Flash Flood Statement (FFS)* | R | A | |

| Product | WFO | APRFC | WSOs |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Flood Warning (FLW)* | R | A | |
| Flood Statements (FLS)* | R | A | |
| Hydrologic Statements (RVS) for HSA | R | A | |
| RVS for multiple HSAs | | R | |
| Hydrologic Summary (RVA) | R | A** | |
| Daily River and Lake Summary (RVD) | R | A** | |
| <u>Hydrologic Data Products</u> | | | |
| Hydrologic Data Report 1 (RR1) | R | R | A |
| Hydrologic Data Report 3 (RR3) | R | R | A |
| Hydrologic Data Report 5 (RR5) | R | R | A |
| Hydrologic Data Report 6 (RR6) | R | R | A |
| Hydrologic Data Report 7 (RR7) | R | R | A |

* Watch/warning products issued during ice breakup are issued by APRFC with the exception of those for streams in the Tanana River basin between Big Delta and Nenana.

** The APRFC issues the routine RVA and RVD products for all WFOs.

The WFO may request assistance from the APRFC 24 hours a day, 7 days a week using the schedule of duty forecasters. When the APRFC is not staffed, the lead forecaster at any WFO may contact the duty forecasters, the hydrologist in charge, or the development and operations hydrologist to request information or support. Contact procedures for the APRFC will be part of the WFO and APRFC local station policy.

3.2 Hydrology Program Leadership Activities. While the leadership activities performed by the WFO Service Hydrologist or Hydrology Focal Point include coordination, training, post event surveys, and data network maintenance for the WFO’s hydrology program, the program leader may request support for these activities from other members of the WFO staff, from the WSOs, from the APRFC, or from the Region as necessary. The Service Hydrologist or Hydrology Focal Point will work with the Warning Coordination Meteorologist to develop a strong program of community outreach and training. Customer outreach may also be shared with or delegated to the APRFC or the WSO as part of each WFO’s operations plan.

3.3 River Forecast Center Support. When hydrologic events are imminent or occurring, the WFO should ensure that the duty forecaster at the APRFC is aware of changing conditions when the office is not staffed and should coordinate with the APRFC on the impact of those conditions when it is staffed.

3.6 Weather Service Office Hydrologic Functions. The WSOs in each WFO's HSA will provide an active watch on local conditions during their hours of operation, which may be extended when possible at the request of the WFO to support forecast operations during flooding events. In coordination with the lead forecaster at the WFO, staff at the WSO may recommend issuance of flash flood watches, warnings, and statements for their area of responsibility when conditions warrant. The WSO will participate in customer outreach, in working with local observers, and in acquiring and distributing hydrologic data in the local area. The WSO may be asked to provide gage maintenance and site support for gages in their area of responsibility. All WSO responsibilities within the hydrologic program will be predicated on the provision of appropriate tools and training to the staff at the WSO.